



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



AID PROGRAM PERFORMANCE REPORT 2015-16

Laos

November 2016

LAOS AID PROGRAM PERFORMANCE INFORMATION 2015-16

SUMMARY

This report assesses the performance of Australian aid to Laos under the first year of Australia's new aid program strategy – the Laos Program Aid Investment Plan (2015-16 to 2019-20). This new strategy aims to promote access to quality basic education, develop Laos' human resources and support a stronger trade regime and private sector competitiveness.

Australia's aid to Laos addresses a number of critical constraints to inclusive development. Our education sector engagement is designed to ensure children leave the primary school system with a quality education that enables them to both benefit from and contribute to Laos' economic development. Our human resource development support aims to address a crucial constraint to the competitiveness of Lao businesses and the delivery of effective government services. Our trade and private sector engagement aims to help position Laos to capitalise on the opportunities created by more integrated global and regional markets.


Australian aid to Laos in 2015-16 was estimated at \$44.8 million. In 2014, the most recent year international aid data is available, Australia was Laos' second largest bilateral donor¹. However, Australia's ranking has likely slipped over the past couple years with the reduction to the aid budget and a scale-up of other donors' aid to Laos. Australian aid accounted for about 11 per cent of total aid to Laos, and around 0.4 per cent of GDP.


Despite the reduced budget, the program has made significant progress against its strategic objectives in 2015-16. Our education sector policy advocacy has been particularly effective, resulting in good progress being made with national primary curriculum revision and improvements in school-based management.


PERFORMANCE AGAINST STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Objective	Previous Rating ²	Current Rating
more disadvantaged girls and boys complete a quality basic education	n.a.	Green
improving Laos' human resources through scholarships, training and organisational capacity building	n.a.	Amber
a stronger trade regime and more competitive private sector	n.a.	Amber

Note:

 Green. Progress is as expected at this stage of implementation and it is likely that the objective will be achieved. Standard program management practices are sufficient.

 Amber. Progress is somewhat less than expected at this stage of implementation and restorative action will be necessary if the objective is to be achieved. Close performance monitoring is recommended.

 Red. Progress is significantly less than expected at this stage of implementation and the objective is not likely to be met given available resources and priorities. Recasting the objective may be required.

More disadvantaged girls and boys complete a quality basic education

While net primary school enrolment has improved in recent years, Laos continues to experience high rates of dropout and repetition and poor learning outcomes. Only 78 per cent of students complete a full five years of primary education, and only 42 per cent of students who reach Grade 5 are able to read fluently. Poor access to clean water and sanitation, as well as food insecurity, are key factors affecting school attendance in rural areas in Laos. Only 55 per cent of primary schools in Laos have both a functional water supply and sanitation facilities. One third of households in Laos are food insecure (with an additional 40 per cent of the population at risk of becoming food insecure).

¹ Development Assistance Committee (DAC) donor.

² Financial year 2015-16 is the first year that the strategy objectives of the new Laos Program 2015-16 to 2019-20 Aid Investment Plan are to be assessed.

Australia's flagship Basic Education Quality and Access in Laos (BEQUAL) program is a four-year, \$82 million program aiming to improve participation and learning outcomes of children in primary school. BEQUAL commenced implementation in May 2015. The program achieved all milestones identified in its Annual Plan and performance assessment framework. Major achievements include supporting 217 new teacher trainees (140 women) from disadvantaged remote areas to successfully complete of their first year of teacher training; providing 20 scholarships to teacher educators; launching the BEQUAL Education Innovation Fund to encourage new solutions to key education constraints; providing 405 person-days of training for education managers and administrators in the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) in pedagogy, mentoring and support to schools; rehabilitating 636 sub-standard classrooms; developing a new national primary curriculum framework; training 4,162 people in remote districts in community based contracting for school infrastructure construction, basic water and sanitation and school maintenance supervision; and mobilising a consortium of four non-government organisations to deliver activities to address education barriers in remote villages. School infrastructure provision addressed disabled student access requirements.

Australia continued to provide water and sanitation and school meals through our partnerships with UNICEF and WFP. In 2015, UNICEF provided access to clean water and sanitation facilities to 250 schools, benefiting more than 26,000 school children and 9,000 community members in disadvantaged districts. More than 150,000 students living in poor districts were provided with mid-morning snacks, and 259 schools in 5 provinces now have access to school lunches. These outputs exceeded expectations. In 2015-16, 28 per cent fewer Lao children dropped-out of school. UNICEF and WFP have commissioned an impact evaluation to determine the extent to which school meals and improved water and sanitation contributed to this reduction.

Improving Laos' human resources through scholarships, training and organisational capacity building

Higher education and training in Laos is struggling to meet the demands of the Lao economy. Inadequate workforce skills are the top constraint to private sector expansion in Laos, and Laos lags well behind similar economies on just about every metric on skills³. Employers surveyed reported both shortages of applicants for job advertisements, and job applicants with insufficient skills. In 2015, ASEAN countries officially entered into a single labour market with the creation of the ASEAN Economic Community. To become competitive in the ASEAN market, Laos must rapidly build the skills of its workers and improve its productivity. The constrained fiscal environment is also creating pressure on the Lao Government to make productivity gains. This prompted a difficult decision to freeze the allocation of civil service recruitment quotas in 2015, and to undertake overdue improvements to the performance assessment system for government employees.

The Laos Australia Institute (LAI), which commenced implementation in December 2013, manages a number of Australia's human resource development programs, including Australia Awards and Australia's local scholarship program. An independent evaluation of LAI conducted in March 2016 found that the program was effective, but recommended revising the objectives to be more realistic and focused in line with a reduced aid budget for Laos. A key result achieved with the support of LAI during 2015 was the drafting and approval of the National Human Resource Development Strategy, which sets the strategic direction for all human resource development in Laos (including the private sector). LAI also supported MoES to undertake an organisational assessment to inform a restructure of the Ministry. The planned restructure will improve the efficiency of the Ministry by consolidating a number of departments and reducing overlap and duplication between positions. The reductions in the budget and institutional capacity constraints meant that progress against objectives for gender and disability was less than expected.

While over 90 per cent of Australia Awards scholarship recipients successfully completed their courses, the academic performance of scholarship recipients was not as strong as expected. This was linked to issues around awardee selection. Thirty individuals were shortlisted for Australia Awards scholarships, however only 21 were awarded (9 female) due to many applicants not meeting minimum English requirements and

³ World Bank, 2014, *Lao PDR Investment Climate Assessment*. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/lao/publication/lao-pdr-investment-climate-assessment-2014-policy-uncertainty-in-the-midst-of-a-natura-resources-boom>

late withdrawals. To address these issues, LAI convened a workshop to develop strategies to improve scholarships promotion and selection for 2016.

In the 2015 intake for the Laos Australia National Scholarships (LANS) 20 places (of a total of 70) were reallocated to Souphanouvong University (SU) in Luang Prabang. This reallocation improved the targeting of ethnic minority students by LANS, with 90 per cent of supported students studying at SU, and 80 per cent of supported students studying at the National University in Vientiane coming from ethnic minorities. This is an increase from 45-50 per cent in previous years⁴.

A stronger trade regime and more competitive private sector

Improving the trading and business environment remains a challenge for the Lao PDR. Laos is currently ranked 134th out of 189 countries (9th in ASEAN) on the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business survey, and 83rd out of 140 countries (7th in ASEAN) on the Global Competitiveness Index. Opaque and inconsistently applied business regulations provide significant barriers for many companies to invest and trade. This affects the scale of Australian business operations in Laos, as well as Laos' ability to benefit from the ASEAN Economic Community. Australia's flagship trade program, the Trade Development Facility phase 2 (TDF2), supports Laos' on-going trade reform priorities, aimed at helping the Lao Government address policy and institutional impediments to trade and investment in sectors that have high potential to contribute to inclusive growth. This includes helping Laos rationalise and reduce non-tariff measures (NTMs), undertake policy reform, strengthen dissemination of trade rules and provide finance to Lao-based businesses to help them expand. TDF2 is delivered through a multi-donor trust fund administered by the World Bank. TDF2 is also supported by the European Union, Irish Aid, USAID and Germany. Australia has committed an additional \$4.1 million of aid funding to TDF2 to tackle business climate reforms, a priority and major challenge for the Lao Government and Australian businesses seeking to invest and trade in Laos.

Overall, the TDF2 performed well against expected outcomes, with the exception of some disappointing delays in the establishment of the Non-Tariff Measures Working Group. Over 240 NTMs have now been classified and work has commenced to identify priority measures to be addressed. The Business Assistance Facility (BAF), a matching grants facility for Lao-based businesses, performed more strongly than expected, with 83⁵ grant approvals with a value of US\$469,000. Of those, 45% of approvals have been for women-owned firms, exceeding the 30% target. Three sub-sectors have dominated the grants, namely: manufacturing, tourism and handicrafts. The BAF has enhanced its marketing activities through a new promotional video, a series of radio advertisements and switching the default language to Lao. Labour standards work progressed according to plan. To support the enforcement of minimum wage standards, TDF2 trained labour inspectors on requirements and developed guidance notes and training materials. A pilot scheme to help factories improve working conditions has started with participation of 11 companies. On strengthening coordination, the Trade and Private Sector Working Group and Program Executive Committee are now meeting regularly, resulting in improved intra-government coordination and government-donor coordination.

Legacy rural development investments

We are continuing to support a number of existing rural development investments under our new Aid Investment Plan until those investments conclude. These investments are generally progressing as expected and are providing better access to financial services, increasing household productivity and incomes and reducing unexploded ordnance contamination. Over a 12 month period we have cleared 146 hectares of unexploded ordnance, benefiting over 8,500 people through our UXO program. We have provided over 46,000 people with access to small-scale community-based infrastructure through the Poverty Reduction Program Phase II. We have also improved access to financial services for over 132,000 people.

⁴ Half of all Laos Australia National Scholarships are awarded to women.

⁵ Calendar year 2015 results.

Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR)

Australia's assistance in Laos is also partly delivered by ACIAR. In 2015-16, ACIAR delivered a research program (\$5.4 million) focused on improving agricultural production systems and market linkages and thereby increasing smallholder income. The research investments resulted in: the development of a map of plantation teak areas using high resolution remote sensing imagery enabling evidence-based planning and policy development; introduction of soil property maps that can be used to answer the question "what can this soil do?"; the installation of a modern veneer processing facility enabling new timber products for domestic and export markets; and farmers using groundwater for dry season cropping and earning additional incomes as high as 4 million Lao kip per season.

Gender

Australian assistance to Laos addresses gender equality and women's economic empowerment through a number of channels. Australia's basic education engagement employs several strategies to lift girls' enrolment and retention in school, including training female ethnic minority teachers to be placed in remote rural, educationally-disadvantaged communities with significant ethnic minority populations. Australia's human resources development program seeks to achieve gender equality in all of its scholarship programs and is addressing gender issues in human resources development through institutional capacity building work. Australia's trade sector engagement is supporting women entrepreneurs grow their businesses and Australia has recently allocated additional resources to TDF2 lift the gender focus of Australia's work in the sector.

PROGRESS TOWARDS PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS IN 2015-16

Aid objective	2015-16 benchmark	Rating	Progress in 2015-16
1. More disadvantaged girls and boys complete a quality basic education	Four per cent fewer children drop-out of school from grade one.	Achieved	28 per cent fewer children are dropping-out of school.
	220 teacher trainees (at least 60% female) from disadvantaged areas commenced training at teacher training colleges.	Achieved	220 teachers commenced training – 140 women (64%) and 80 men.
2. Improving Laos' human resources through scholarships, training and organisational capacity building	30 qualified people (including at least 15 women) are awarded a tertiary scholarship to study in Australia.	Partially achieved	21 long-term Australia Awards were awarded in 2015-16, 9 of which were to women. While the program seeks to achieve at least gender parity, English language competency requirements resulted in a larger number of male final awardees.
	The Lao Ministry of Education and Sport approves a national Human Resource Development Plan based on a comprehensive organisational assessment process.	Achieved	National Human Resource Development Plan approved by Lao Government in April 2016.
3. A stronger trade regime and more competitive private sector	Over 30 grants issued to Lao-based businesses to help increase their sales growth.	Achieved	83 businesses received grants in calendar year 2015, 37 (45 per cent) of those were female-owned.

Performance Benchmarks 2016-17 to 2019-20

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
1. More disadvantaged girls and boys complete a quality basic education				
Number of ethnic teacher (including per cent female) trainee scholarship holders returning to teach in their communities	152 new ethnic students commence training at teacher training college	381 ethnic students supported to undertake teacher training	217 ethnic student trainees graduate and return to teach in their communities	152 ethnic student trainees graduate and return to teach in their communities
New curriculum piloted and associated textbooks distributed to students	New Grade 1 primary curriculum piloted	New Grade 1 textbooks are provided to every school in Laos	New Grade 2 textbooks are provided to every school in Laos	New Grade 3 textbooks are provided to every school in Laos.
		New Grade 2 primary curriculum piloted	New Grade 3 primary curriculum piloted	New Grade 4 primary curriculum piloted
2. Improving Laos’ human resources through scholarships, training and organisational capacity building				
Number and percentage of women and men assisted to gain recognised post-secondary qualifications who successfully graduate.	85 percent of Australia Awardees due to finish, successfully graduate.	85 percent of Australia Awardees due to finish, successfully graduate.	85 percent of Australia Awardees due to finish, successfully graduate.	85 percent of Australia Awardees due to finish, successfully graduate.
	61 out of 72 students (85 percent of the cohort) due to complete their Laos Australia National Scholarships successfully graduate.	61 out of 72 students (85 percent of the cohort) due to complete their Laos Australia National Scholarships successfully graduate.	60 out of 70 students (85 percent of the cohort) due to complete their Laos Australia National Scholarships successfully graduate.	X ⁶ students (85 percent of the cohort) due to complete their Laos Australia National Scholarships successfully graduate.
3. A stronger trade regime and more competitive private sector				
Trade diversification and trade competitiveness programs in place supporting businesses, including women-owned business.	An additional 50 business activities approved by the Business Assistance Facility (including at least 30 per cent from women-owned businesses).	Lao PDR conducts a high quality Lao Business Forum that includes effective consultation with women-owned business and youth.	Cumulative number of issues and concerns raised by small and women-led enterprises captured and actioned through the Lao Business Forum.	Increased share of firms with female participation in management or ownership.

⁶ This student cohort has not been selected yet so graduation numbers cannot be estimated.

MUTUAL OBLIGATIONS

The Laos Program Aid Investment Plan represents the jointly agreed priorities of the Australian and Lao Governments for Australian aid. These priorities were confirmed at high-level aid consultations in 2015. The Australian and Lao Governments work closely to progress these priorities. In this context the Lao Government has made a series of policy commitments in national planning documents that will support the effectiveness of Australian aid in priority areas.

In the education sector, the Lao Government has made a commitment, subject to budget constraints, to increasing the proportion of the budget devoted to education. It has also made a commitment to increase the proportion of the education budget devoted to non-wage recurrent expenditure – such as expenditure on text books and teacher resources. These are two important budget strategies for improving education access and quality in Laos.

The Lao Government's current fiscal constraints has meant that the amount of the budget allocated to education has fallen in absolute terms from 2013-14 to 2014-2015, as has the percentage of the budget devoted to education. On the basis of budget figures, the proportion of the education budget allocated to non-wage recurrent expenditure will increase slightly from 9 to 10.5 per cent. It remains low, however, by international standards.

We are also expecting the Lao Government to undertake a number of policy and institutional actions in the trade sector to help make it easier for businesses to operate. A key action is to establish a Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) Working Group to support a process of government-led rationalisation of the over 240 NTMs currently facing businesses. Encouraging progress has been made with elements of the NTM streamlining process, such as the conclusion of a stocktake and analysis process. After some delay, the NTM working group was formally established in October 2016 by ministerial decree.

PROGRAM QUALITY

Overall program quality in 2015-16 improved slightly compared to that for 2014-15. Across eight on-going investments, two were assessed as unsatisfactory for effectiveness, compared to 2014-15, where three investments out of six on-going investments were regarded as unsatisfactory on effectiveness. On efficiency, two investments were assessed as unsatisfactory in 2015-16. In 2014-15, two investments were also assessed as unsatisfactory (but these accounted for a greater share of the portfolio). There are no 'investments requiring improvement' in 2015-16. The Laos Australia Rural Livelihoods Program (LARLP) and Support for UXO action in Laos, were investments identified as requiring improvement in the 2014-15 Aid Program Performance Report (APPR). Remedial action, referenced in the 2014-15 Aid Program Performance Report, has addressed impediments to implementation with LARLP, and the program is now progressing satisfactorily. The UXO program has been performing satisfactorily, but was captured in the *investments requiring improvement* process during the last reporting period, because it shared the same Aid Quality Check as LARLP.

All investments recorded satisfactory performance on gender inclusion in 2015-16, with three investments achieving a rating of good quality or above (Aid Quality Check scores of 5 or 6). In 2014-15, all investments recorded satisfactory performance on gender inclusion, but none were rated good quality or above.

Traditionally, investments achieve the highest ratings for relevance. However, in 2015-16, investments performed less well against this dimension of quality. This reflects the removal of rural development as a Aid Investment Plan priority (as a result of budget reductions), and the continued existence of legacy rural development investments that are no longer well aligned with new priorities. Performance across the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability dimensions of quality was variable. Generally consistent satisfactory performance was recorded against M&E, gender and risk.

Managing contractors continue to increase their share of the delivery of Australian aid funds, accounting for around 70 per cent of aid funds delivered in 2015-16. The performance of key delivery partners has improved compared to 2014-15. In 2015-16, only one out of ten partners had an unsatisfactory rating against any partnership performance criterion. This compares to 2014-15, where three out of twelve partners had an unsatisfactory rating against any partnership performance criterion.

The program has sought to lift the quality of the portfolio by strengthening the effectiveness of our policy advocacy in the education sector. This has resulted in significant progress being made with two policy priorities - revision of the national primary curriculum and improvement in school-based management. We have reviewed and strengthened Australia Awards promotion and selection processes to improve academic performance. In the trade sector, we have sought to increase the focus on business environment constraints to private sector growth under TDF2. As a result of analysis and design work conducted in 2015-16, significant additional Australian aid resources will now be made available to TDF2. This additional assistance will help simplify business regulations, increase the transparency and predictability of decision making, improve the inclusiveness of private sector growth, and enhance the quality of policy dialogue between the Lao Government and businesses.

MANAGEMENT RESPONSES

During 2016-17, we will review the performance of the flagship education sector BEQUAL program over the first 12 months of its implementation. A number of evaluative studies will be conducted to confirm the program logic remains sound and relevant, and help map donor engagement in the sector. We will undertake the design on a new phase of our human resource development program, which will potentially extend our existing program out to 2021.

Australia's additional financing to TDF2 will enhance the program's focus on the business environment and women's economic engagement. The coming year will also see us further reduce our engagement in rural development. A priority for us will be to conclude the Laos Australia Rural Livelihoods Program in a manner which maximises the sustainability of its development outcomes. Progress against our 2015-16 management actions is set out in Annex A.

ANNEX A - PROGRESS IN ADDRESSING MANAGEMENT RESPONSES

Management responses identified in 2014-15 APPR	Rating	Progress made in 2015-16
Education		
Consider stepping down from the role of GPE co-coordinating agency to focus limited resources on ensuring effective mobilisation of BEQUAL.	Achieved	This was considered and we decided not to step down in 2015-16. We have raised concerns with the implementation of the GPE with the CEO of GPE and the World Bank as implementation manager.
Continue to encourage the Lao Government to meet its commitment to disburse school block grants to ensure schools have funding to meet operational needs.	Achieved	We have encouraged GoL to meet its commitments in relation to block grants. The GoL has not yet disbursed these grants. We will continue our advocacy in 2016-17.
Advocate for a review of the Joint Sector Review Mechanism (JSRM) process to take place in 2016.	Achieved	We have advocated for a review of the JSRM process and have secured agreement to see this undertaken in the 2nd half of 2016.
Human Resource Development		
Explore how the new DFAT gender equality strategy can be applied most effectively.	Achieved	DFAT's scholarship targeting and selection process reforms have helped promote gender equality. Our HRD investment, the LAI, is pursuing 'women in leadership' issues. A <i>women's leadership</i> module has been included in the Australian scholarship pre-departure program.
Trade		
Negotiate an agreement for additional funding for TDF 2 as a result of its one year extension, focussed on strengthening the business enabling environment and supporting SMEs.	Achieved	Additional funds approved for TDF2 of \$4.1 million, which will see the program expanded and extended to 2019. Extension phase will include an increased focus on the business enabling environment and supporting SMEs.
Integrate ODE's recommendations from an upcoming aid for trade evaluation into the design of any successor program to TDF 2.	Achieved	The extension phase of TDF2 will reflect the outcomes of the ODE evaluation.
Ensure women's economic empowerment and gender equality are a stronger focus under TDF2, and submit a proposal for additional assistance to the gender equality fund.	Achieved	TDF2 extension will enhance focus on women's economic empowerment and gender. Additional gender funds obtained make up some of the additional resourcing obtained for TDF2.
Rural development		
Support a World Bank-led impact evaluation of the PRF II and utilise the outcomes, along with the LARLP Independent Evaluation, to guide Australia's withdrawal from the rural development sector.	Achieved	The World Bank evaluation was supported by DFAT and the results of the LARLP Independent Evaluation have been used to guide DFAT's exit strategy from sector.
Encourage relevant development partners such as the World Bank, UK Aid and Germany to continue social protection/livelihoods and financial inclusion investments once Australian support concludes in 2017.	Achieved	We encouraged engagement of relevant donors and a number of other donors will remain engaged. We have shared our lessons learnt with other donors, including the World Bank poverty profile analytical work.

Note:

- Achieved. Significant progress has been made in addressing the issue
- Partly achieved. Some progress has been made in addressing the issue, but the issue has not been resolved
- Not achieved. Progress in addressing the issue has been significantly below expectations

ANNEX B - EVALUATION PLANNING

List of evaluations completed in the reporting period (2015-16)

Investment number and name (If applicable)	Name of evaluation	Date completed	Date Evaluation report Uploaded into AidWorks	Date Management response uploaded Into AidWorks	Published on website
INH726 - Trade Development Facility II	Partner-led Mid Term Review	October 2015	15 March 2016	None planned	Published on World Bank website
INK562 - Lao-Australian Professional Development Institute	Independent mid-term review	June 2016	planned	Planned	Planned
Covered INH726 - Trade Development Facility II in Laos	ODE Trade Facilitation Program Evaluation (multi-country)	April 2016	Not applicable	Not applicable	10 May 2016

List of program prioritised evaluations planned for the next 12 months (2016-17)

Evaluation title	Investment number and name (If applicable)	Date – planned commencement (month/year)	Date – planned completion (month/year)	Purpose of evaluation	Evaluation type
Independent Final Evaluation	INK391 - Laos Australia Rural Livelihoods Program	April 2016	September 2016	Review performance of investment	Independent Final Evaluation
Mid Term Review	INK284 - Basic Education School Meals and WATSAN Program	End of 2016	2017	Review performance of investment	Partner-led Mid Term Review
Partner-led Impact Evaluation	INJ573 - Poverty Reduction Fund, Phase II	June 2015	October 2016	Assess progress against program baseline	Partner-led Impact Evaluation

ANNEX C - AID QUALITY CHECK RATINGS

AQC ratings

AQC investment performance over the previous 12 months and where available last year's AQC ratings are included.

Investment name	Approved budget and duration	year on year	Relevance	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Monitoring and Evaluation	Sustainability	Gender equality	Risks and Safeguards
Poverty Reduction Fund Phase II	\$20.3 m 2011-17	2015 AQC	4	5	5	4	3	4	4
		2014 AQC	5	5	5	5	4	4	4
Support for UXO Action in Laos	\$9 million 2011-2016	2015 AQC	3	4	3	4	4	5	4
		2014 AQC	5	3	3	5	4	4	4
Basic Education School Meals & WATSAN Program	\$22.1 2012-2018	2015 AQC	4	3	4	4	3	4	4
		2014 AQC	4	3	4	3	3	4	4
Trade Development Facility II	\$9.1 million 2013-2019	2015 AQC	5	4	4	4	4	4	4
		2014 AQC	5	4	4	4	4	4	4
Laos Australia Rural Livelihoods Program	\$33.2 million 2012-2017	2015 AQC	3	4	3	4	4	5	4
		2014 AQC	5	3	3	5	4	4	4
Laos Australia Institute (including Australia Awards)	LAI: \$14.8 million 2012 to 2017	2015 AQC	5	3	4	4	4	4	5
	AA: \$18.9 million 2015-16 onwards	2014 AQC	6	4	4	5	4	4	5

Investment name	Approved budget and duration	year on year	Relevance	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Monitoring and Evaluation	Sustainability	Gender equality	Risks and Safeguards
Laos Australia Development Learning Facility	\$10.6 million 2014-2020	2015 AQC	5	5	5	4	4	4	5
		2014 AQC	na	Na	na	na	na	na	na
Basic Education Quality & Access in Laos	\$65 million 2016-2019	2015 AQC	5	5	5	4	4	5	5
		2014 AQC	na	na	na	na	na	na	na

Note

Definitions of rating scale:

Satisfactory (4, 5 and 6)

6 = Very good; satisfies criteria in all areas.

5 = Good; satisfies criteria in almost all areas.

4 = Adequate; on balance, satisfies criteria; does not fail in any major area.

Less than satisfactory (1, 2 and 3)

3 = Less than adequate; on balance does not satisfy criteria and/or fails in at least one major area.

2 = Poor; does not satisfy criteria in major areas.

1 = Very poor; does not satisfy criteria in many major area.

No HAQC or FAQC assessments for the program undertaken in 2015-16.